programmes being implemented by this Ministry are as follows:—

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	20 Million families (including old families for supplementary assistance)
(ii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)	Generation of 1445 million men day of of employment
(iii) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)	Generation of 1013 million mendays of employment

These targets are expected to be achieved during the Seventh Plan period.

Retention price-cum-subsidy scheme for fertilisers

1068. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to bring changes in the existing retention price-cum-subsidy scheme for fertilizer industry ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the changes likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) An Inter Ministerial Committee has reviewed the present retention price-cum-subsidy scheme for fertilizer industry and has recommended certain modifications therein. The major recommandations made by the Committee are as follows :—

1. (a) For existing plants, retention price of Urea be fixed on grouping of direct costs relating to feedstock and individual capital related costs based on historical cost of fixed assets and the actual pattern of financing ;

(b) There should be a separate group for sick units for which retention prices would be worked out based on 70 percent capacity utilisation for Ammonia plant against 80% as at present ;

(c) For coal-based plants at Ramagundam and Talcher, 60 percent of the original capacity can continue to be adopted till the long-term measures required to restore capacity are completed.

2. For new plants starting from Thal, a system of tariff adjusted import parity price could be adopted from the next pricing period. In the meantime, retention prices for them would be fixed on group deirect costs *plus* individual capital-related costs.

3. From the next pricing period, possibilities may be explored of adopting a normative pattern of financing debt-equity ratio, say, 2.5:1).

4. At that stage, design/guarantee norms may be adopted for computation of direct costs for which the industry may be encouraged to undertake balancing investment.

5. The feasibility of applying tariff adjusted parity pricing scheme to these units can also be considered at that time.